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INFO & NEWS

from the

Indiana Senate

Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline



Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that will help reduce the amount of gas you use.

If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at www.indianaconsumer.com

Drive Sensibly: Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

Observe the Speed Limit: Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

Avoid Excessive Idling: Idling gets zero miles per hour and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

Use Cruise Control: Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

Use Overdrive Gears: Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

Check & Replace Air Filters: Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

Keep Tires Properly Inflated: Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil: Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



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Serving District 6 in Lake, Porter, Newton
and Benton Counties in Northwest Indiana



RESTART YOUR ENGINES:
There are countless sites of interest across Indiana. Madison, located in southeast Indiana, is a tourist hot spot. Pictured here is Madison's historic Main Street.

Did You Know...?

... that the Indiana Senate spent prudently this past year, resulting in a return of \$903,572.84 to the state's General Fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2006. This is more than four times the amount reverted in FY 2005.

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Rejuvenate. Reenergize. Relax.

— Tourism boosts Indiana's growing economy —

Rejuvenate, Reenergize and Relax. This is the theme behind Indiana's new slogan: Restart Your Engines.

After months of research, which included surveying residents and tourists in Indiana and surrounding states, the Indiana Office of Tourism and Development created the new slogan to replace "Enjoy Indiana", a slogan Indiana held for more than eight years.

Millions of tourists visit Indiana every year for the Indianapolis 500, the All-state 400 at the Brickyard and the U.S. Grand Prix. Naturally, Indiana's identity is synonymous with motor sports, not only in the United States, but worldwide, earning the state the familiar moniker "Motor Sports Capital of the World."

Indiana offers far more, however, than just motor sports. The Indiana Office of Tourism has gone to great lengths to give Hoosiers and outside visitors a picture of

what a successful vacation should be-- the chance to relax and take in all Indiana has to offer. From 93 county fairs, to the 150th annual Indiana State Fair in August, there is rarely a week that goes by without an exciting event.

Already, approximately 59 million tourists spend nearly \$9 billion in Indiana each year. Studies show that tourists spend almost seven times more money than the ticket face value of the event they are in town to attend. This has led to the creation of more than 264,000 tourism related jobs statewide. It is my hope that the new state slogan will persuade even more tourists to find out what Indiana has to offer, bringing with them dollars that may help boost our economy.

More information regarding the new Indiana state slogan and a statewide list of summer events and activities can be found online at www.visitindiana.com.



MAJOR MOVES MEANS MAJOR MONEY

Northwest Indiana to benefit from lease of Toll Road

On June 28, Indiana closed a lease with Statewide Mobility Partners, which will operate the Indiana Toll Road in exchange for **\$3.8 billion**. That money has been deposited and is currently earning interest at a rate of about **\$500,000 every day**. For an up-to-the-second look at how much interest has been accrued, visit www.in.gov/tos/MajorMoves.htm

All of this money will go toward improving infrastructure in the state of Indiana, and District 6 will see millions of dollars in road improvements in the coming years. In addition to the local projects planned by the Indiana Department of Transportation, the legislature also approved \$150 million in payments to local governments to be used as they see fit.

Here is a breakdown of what the counties in District 6 will receive over just two years:

- Lake County — \$5,796,746
- Porter County — \$1,837,674
- Newton County — \$588,314
- Benton County — \$579,374

As you can see, Major Moves will generate a significant amount of money for our area that will improve the quality of life. I look forward to seeing a lot more orange construction barrels on the streets I represent in the coming years.



2006 Legislative Interim Senators Keep Working in Summer

Landske appointed to health & safety committee

In early July, Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton (R-Columbus) appointed me **chairman of the Interim Study Committee on Public Health and Safety Matters**.

Legislators form commissions, study committees and advisory boards to examine issues in detail and to give more focused attention to particular issues not addressed during the legislative session.

The duties of the Interim Study Committee on Public Health and Safety Matters include the assessment of railroad labor camps and coal

mine safety. In addition, the committee will study the need for smoke detectors and sprinkler systems in health care facilities and study food handling regulations for tax exempt organizations.

I am excited to work alongside my colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives, producing innovative ideas that will help lead this committee forward. As legislators, we serve as the voice of the citizens we represent, with the ultimate goal of creating future legislation that will serve the best interests of all Hoosiers.

For more information, visit www.in.gov/legislative/interim



Sen. Landske listens to and reviews testimony in a Senate committee. When the Senate is not in session, Landske still has work to do as chairman of the Interim Study Committee on Public Health and Safety Matters.

Defending the Right to Bear Arms

New laws protect rights of law-abiding citizens

"The people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State."

Article 1, Section 32 of the Indiana Constitution grants us the freedom to own firearms and store them in our homes. I have always been a firm supporter of our 2nd Amendment rights and would like to tell you about two new laws that protect law-abiding gun owners.

The General Assembly passed legislation this year to simplify the handgun licensing process. Previously, everyone with a handgun license was required to have their permit updated and be fingerprinted every four years — even people who have had such a license all of their adult life. There aren't too many unchanging things in our lives, but one of those is our fingerprints. The state finally acknowledged that licensed gun owners are law abiding citizens who should not be forced through this arbitrary and cumbersome process every four years.

The Indiana State Police issues about 80,000 gun permits per year; this measure will reduce that number and make the process much more efficient. Safety is still a top priority and law en-

forcement officers will continue to revoke licenses as necessary.

These small, sensible changes are a great improvement of the current system and make the licensing procedure much more efficient.

In addition, the Legislature added to statute something that is already widely accepted as case law. The "Stand Your Ground" law does basically three things to protect those who are protecting themselves.

It establishes the presumption that a criminal who forcibly enters or intrudes into your home or occupied vehicle is there to cause death or great bodily harm; therefore a person may use any manner of force, including deadly force, against that person.

It removes the "duty to retreat" if you are attacked in any place you have a right to be. You no longer have to turn your back on a criminal

and try to run when attacked. Instead, you may stand your ground and fight back, meeting force with force, including deadly force, if you reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to yourself or others.

It provides that persons using force authorized by law shall not be prosecuted for using such force. It also prohibits criminals and their families from suing victims for injuring or killing the criminals who have attacked them. In short, it gives rights back to law-abiding people.

We felt it necessary to add these statutes to make the law in such situations perfectly clear—Hoosiers have the right to defend themselves and their families.

I am pleased we were able to accomplish these things in defense of our Constitution and for Hoosier gun owners.

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— Article 1, Section 32
of the Indiana Constitution

